President Grube Achieves Goals...

True to his word when he arrived on campus in the Summer of 1999, Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube announced Monday, November 24 he would resign the university presidency, effective June 30, 2009, exactly ten years after he began serving as the university’s 11th president. He had said at the time, the effective life of a university president was ten years.

"It is the right time for the university," Grube said in an email announcement to faculty and staff. "It has certainly been an honor beyond words for my wife Kathryn and me to have served at Georgia Southern University," he summarized in a subsequently press release.

In making the announcement, Grube indicated he would take one year of educational leave, or sabatical, in consultation with the University System of Georgia mentoring new presidents before returning to the classroom as a political science professor.

Grube’s presidency has been transformational for the university. His stated goal of achieving academic distinction and national recognition as one of the top comprehensive residential universities in the nation has been accomplished.

During his ten-year tenure at Georgia Southern, enrollment has increased from 14,766 to 17,764 students, or 23 percent; average SAT scores for incoming freshmen increased from 997 to 1111, a 124 point or 13 percent increase; and retention rates have increased from 69 percent to 81 percent, an increase of 12 percent. Georgia Southern has won two NCAA football titles, added two new colleges—Continuing Education and Information Technology—and, recently, been designated a Carnegie research institution.

Grube presided over a ten-year capital investment program adding ten new buildings, including the College of Education, Nesmith-Lane Performing Arts Center, College of Information Technology, Nursing—Chemistry, Center for Arts & Theatre, Soccer and Track facility, Jesse Bishop Field House, J.J. Clements Baseball Center, Cowart Ticket and Administration Building, Jarish Football Center, and Bennett-Ranney Golf Center as well as the massive addition and renovation of the Zaxb S. Henderson Library, now one of the finest university libraries in the Southeastern U.S. Likewise, on-campus living quarters have expanded significantly with Southern Courtyard, Southern Pines, Eagle Village, and the new 1,041-bed Centennial Place opening on-line in Fall 2009.

"If you just ride around campus, you can see Dr. Grube’s legacy,” observers concur. "When you combine our beautiful campus with higher academic standards you attract better students and faculty."

The Board of Regents will soon begin a national search, expected to take about a year, for Grube’s replacement. An interim president could be named if a new president is not in place by July 1, 2009.

Originally from California, Grube served as president of St. Cloud State University in Minnesota from 1993 to 1999 prior to coming to Georgia Southern.

The Jane White Marketing Scholarships

When Dr. Jane F. White passed away in August 2001, she endowed awards for the Jane White Marketing Scholar, to recognize outstanding marketing faculty, and Jane White Marketing Scholarship, to recognize outstanding marketing students. Her legacy will recognize exceptional scholars in the marketing field for many years to come.

Dr. White was warmly remembered by colleagues for her sharp intellect and strength of mind. She received an associate of arts from Christian College in Columbia, MO, in 1937, a bachelor of science from Central College in Fayette, MO, in 1940, a master of business administration from the University of Denver in 1950, and a doctorate from the University of North Dakota in 1974. She taught high school in Missouri, Maryland, Texas, Colorado, Indiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Oregon, Washington, and New York and a summer program at Columbia University in New York City.

In addition to her academic positions, Dr. White held secretarial positions with the St. Louis Union Trust Company, United States Cartridge Company, and Sears Roebuck and Company. She often incorporated her work experience and diverse background into her courses, working as a professional, hard-working instructor.” Her students describe her as a “taskmaster, yet always fair.” Dr. Betty Lane, former chair of the Home Economics Department and a colleague of Dr. White’s, described her as "a lovely lady, who could be rather sharp in her demeanor!" explaining "she never wanted anyone to dominate her mind."

When Dr. White retired in June 1985 as professor emeritus, her retirement gift from the college was a trip to London for her many years of dedicated service.
A Message from Dean Shiffler

Let's do dinner. In your town. On your terms. I would like to visit with you and some of your friends and alumni to share the COBA story.

Within the last year we have been fortunate to have hired Linda Wilke as COBA's first development officer. Linda and I created a new outreach idea called "Dinner with the Dean" where we go on the road to talk with alumni and COBA supporters about the exciting things going on in the business school.

All we need is an invitation and a host. Can we come over you? We have been to Mayville, KY (Tom Cox), Macon (Roger Murphrey), Savannah (Harry Haslam), Duluth (Mike Cusimano), and have future trips scheduled for Altavista (J.T. Masburn), Augusta (Tommy Jones), Hilton Head Island, SC, and Orlando, FL (Laura and Barry Cannell). We're talking about our new graduate programs, faculty accomplishments, growth in student numbers and quality, the Saltus Center, the forensic accounting initiative, and... well... it's a whole lot easier to do this person than it is to try to write it all out here! At dinner, we can have good exchanges, questions-and-answers, and an opportunity to fellowship with one another in a more informal setting.

These events have proven to be fun and informative. We have also done breakfasts and lunches, so it doesn't have to be dinner. My wife, Barbara, often joins us, so spaces are most definitely included.

Let's do dinner! Just call Linda Wilke at 478-479-3277 or send her an email at lwilke@georgiasouthern.edu. We would love to hear from you.

Ronald E. Shiffler, Dean

Top 10 Reasons for Making a Contribution to COBA

1. Reduced funding from State appropriations
2. Ability to designate where your dollars go
3. Personal pride in your alma mater
4. A tax deduction!
5. A sense of "giving back"
6. National rankings
7. 100 percent of your contribution is used.

We often read about charities that use a portion of your contribution to cover expenses or employees' salaries. In some cases, less than half of your contribution is actually used for the charitable purposes you intended.

Not so with a designated contribution to COBA. I emphasize the word "designated." When you write a check to Georgia Southern Foundation, simply indicate on the check that you want the money to go to COBA. We do not subtract any "overhead" expenses from your contribution. All money that you contribute goes toward a COBA-related activity that could not be funded from state dollars alone.

Stay tuned for Reasons 3 through 1.

From the Alumni Editor

Greetings from the 'Berks'

Recently, at Dean Emeritus Paul LaGrone's 92nd birthday celebrations, several of the mature, living COBA faculty were reminiscing. It brought back memories of those earlier days in the Hollis Building. A number of our former students from those early years, the 1970's, are still in Statesboro, including Doug Lambert, Billy Hickman, Frank Dernarhm, Jody Subbs, and others. It is very gratifying to know they are successful, happy, and contributing members of society. Just maybe this group of mature COBA faculty members had something to do with their success. We would really like to hear from others who have yet to update their blue card records.

Growing up in the 1940's and 1950's, my older relatives were forever reflecting upon the Winter of '06, i.e., 1906, and events extending to the "last century." It never occurred to me that one day I would be talking about what happened in '06, but it would be 2006! Now I realize most of my life was in the "last century" and twenty-five years of it were in Hollis. Maybe I am sentimental, but I remember those Hollis years fondly. Old guys like Max Holland, "Sooter" Grider, Charlie Edmonds, John Beegle, Lloyd Dosier, and others are still alive—so far as I know—and are often recalled and remembered by alumni with affection, albeit differing levels, I am sure!

Looking back over my print-out of our more than 18,000 COBA alumni, I notice some have no mailing address. We search Switchboard.com, Yahoo, graduation records, etc., and in most cases, when I find them, the response is "I am not lost; I have been here for years." What I am saying is, "we can't mail the Eagle Executive if we do not have a home mailing address." Yes, we get a lot of returned mail, but, when the post office says, "Unable to Deliver as Addressed," we go looking. So, if you see a copy of the Eagle Executive, and you did not get one, please let me know.

If you are interested, in the successors our grandchildren, let us know if you hear from them, please let me know. The old saying about communication, "telegaph, telephone, and tell-a-field" still works, so, if you see a story, please share with me and keep those blue cards coming back.

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Welcome Back Students Day

Each year, COBA welcomes its new and returning students with free popcorn and soft drinks. This year, we would like to thank William Amphonsah, Rachael Barrett, Tony Barilla, Zandra Braisington, Tom Buckhoff, Charlie Cox, Jackie Eastman, Kevin Eastman, Donna Fisher, Ron Foehr, Kathleen Gruben, Jeannette Hadden, Dena Hala, Jim Harris, Mary Hazeldeen, Ann Henderson, Tracy Ann Henry, Bob Jackson, Carol Jennings, Ann Kelly, Kim Kennedy, Vicki King, Angela Leverence, Susan Miller, Linda Munilla, Tom Noland, Cynthia Parrish, Barbara Price, Cindy Randall, Joe Ruhrland, Dwayne Shepherd, Debbie Sinclair, Dwight Sneathen, Mike Thomas, Grant Turner, Joy West, Tony Barilla, Amanda King, and Godfrey Gibbison, all associate professors, followed with refreshments sponsored by Chick-fil-A.

SAP Certification Planned for COBA Grad Studies

Information Systems is developing an online SAP Certificate program, including three graduate courses with hands-on SAP experience. One of the new courses, enterprise infrastructure systems, was offered for the first time during Fall 2008. This course provides an overview of enterprise system infrastructures and architectures and introduces students to SAP ERP navigation and SAP's major modules. In Spring 2009, business intelligence will be offered as a CISM special problems course. Students in this course will get hands on experience with SAP's Business Warehouse as well as a variety of data mining and business intelligence tools. In Summer 2008, students will have the opportunity to gain experience in SAP ERP configuration and implementation in CISM 7331. The primary focus in this course will be on SAP's financial, control, material management, and sales and distribution modules.

Students have embraced the SAP courses and certification program with enthusiasm. "Before taking SAP classes at Georgia Southern University, I never realized the importance of information systems in a corporation. In the future, companies will not be able to function without structured information systems developed around business models. The combination of the two is what makes it successful. Only a few schools in the U.S. offer an SAP certification, which makes Georgia Southern University very unique. Having SAP experience has opened many doors in my career that I previously did not have," says Jessica Celina, an MBA student.

The courses are being submitted for review and approval by SAP to enable MBA and MAcc students to earn an SAP Certificate while satisfying degree requirements. They could be used to fulfill the requirements for COBA’s MBA with information systems concentration or MAcc, or COST’s master of applied engineering with IT emphasis degree. Post-baccalaureate students may take SAP-approved undergraduate and graduate courses to earn an SAP Certificate.

The on-line graduate SAP Certificate program is projected to be launched in the 2009-2010 academic year. More information about the SAP undergraduate and graduate certificate and the IS minor for COBA students may be found on page 5. If interested, see http://cit.georgiasouthern.edu/is/.

Department News

Finance & Quantitative Analysis

Joe Ruhrland, assistant professor, presented $5,900 in scholarships to students in risk management and insurance at the Student Finance Association meeting. The deserving students and scholarship sponsors were Hugh Vergara and Ashley Gaff, Atlanta Claims Association President's Scholarship, Robert Brantley and Corrine Plamer, Atlanta Area CPCU Scholarship, and Sean Brooks Kennedy, Jordan Johnstun, and Amy Turner, Paul Kidd Memorial Scholarship (see related photos on page 4).

Barbara Price, professor, has been appointed as an Association for Computing Machinery representative director to CSAB, formerly the Computing Sciences Accreditation Board, the lead society for accreditation of programs in computer science, information systems, software engineering, information technology, and cooperating society for accreditation of computer engineering, within ABET, formerly the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, which assures quality in engineering and technology certifying 2,800 programs at more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide.

Information Systems

The Association of Information Technology Professionals recently announced eight colleges and universities received the student chapter outstanding performance award for 2007-2008, including Georgia Southern’s student chapter. Accepting the award were Aaron Wurth, chapter president, and Cheryl Aasheim, associate professor and chapter advisor.

Paige Rutner, assistant professor, received her PhD in information systems from the University of Arkansas. Excerpts of her dissertation were published in MIS Quarterly, a prestigious IS journal.

Manouche Tabatabaei, associate professor, will serve as the IS/DSS/AG/Expert Systems track chair for 2009 Decision Science Institute International Conference in Nancy, France.

Camille Rogers, associate professor, has been elected to the board of Southern Association for Information Systems and will serve as program chair for the 2009. She has also agreed to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Statesboro High School Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Department.

Thomas Case, professor, was elected treasurer for Alpha Iota Mu, the international honor society for information systems.

Robert Newman retired as lecturer of Information Systems at the end of Fall Semester 2008, but will continue to teach computer forensics part-time in the MAcc program.

Management, Marketing, & Logistics

The WERC Watch is a publication distributed quarterly by the Warehousing Education and Research Council (WERC) for warehousing professionals. The Spring 2008 issue is devoted exclusively to the results of DC Velocity’s Annual Warehouse Benchmarking study, which was co-authored by Karl Manrodt, associate professor. Dr. Manrodt’s piece is featured on the front page of this very colorful and professional publication. Graduate student, Joe Tillerson, is also mentioned in the acknowledgments.


Karl Manrodt traveled to Berlin, Germany recently to attend the 17th Annual Trends and Issues in Logistics and Transportation conference.

School of Accountancy

Tom Noland, associate professor, was awarded the Lybrand Bronze Medal for research by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA). The award was presented to Dr. Noland and his co-authors at the IMA's 89th Annual Conference in Tampa, FL. The Lybrand Medal is named after the IMA's 2nd president, William Lybrand, a founding partner of the firm Coopers & Lybrand, now PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Leslie Fletcher, professor, presented an update on U.S. convergence with international financial reporting standards at the joint national conference of the American Society of Women Accountants and the American Women’s Society of Certified Public Accountants in Dallas, TX.

School of Economic Development

The Economics Club offered a premier showing of I.O.U.S.A., a film dealing with the current debt of the U.S. government and the financing of Social Security. In the film, director Patrick Creadon looks at America’s spendthrift ways and impending economic disaster as the Baby Boomer generation prepares to retire. A discussion facilitated by Tony Barilla, Amanda King, and Godfrey Gibbison, all associate professors, followed with refreshments sponsored by Chick-fil-A.

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Michele Deeban, national recruiter for C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Eden Prairie, MN, a global leader in transportation, logistics, and sourcing, recently presented Dean Ron Shiffer, Dave Shepherd, and Jerry Wilson with a $5,000 check to fund five $1,000 scholarships in sales and logistics.
2008 Scholarship Recipients

Freeman Business Scholars
- Alyssa Orovec
- Rebecca Whatley
- Ben Woods

Beta Gamma Sigma
- Elena Benin and Human Resource Management Award
- Delta Sigma Pi
- Jessica L. Murray
- GATE Scholars
- Celeste Thompson
- Sally Lanthier, Shelli Sirmans, Phyllicia Brown, Angela Fish, Luna Yelina, Aaron Scale, Joshua Spain, and Jason Dulin with Dr. Lowell Moore.

Dixie Crystals Scholars
- Katie Carter
- Liza Pierce
- Cam Randall

Robert T. Cox

GATE Scholars

Recipients Not Pictured*
- Paul LaGrone Scholarship: Kathy E. Brown and Charles J. Hodges
- The Wall Street Journal Award in Economics: Aubrey Smith
- The Wall Street Journal Award in Finance: Murtam Elizabeth Hood
- Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr., Information Systems Award: Olin J. Downs
- Albert J. Rosell Information Systems Award: Ross D. Yerden
- Tailored Business Systems Information Systems Award: Richard A. Mordecai
- Buddy Lichte Information Systems Award: Luke D. Odom
- Dr. Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr., Carter B. Bricker Pickett/Garvin Scholarship: Andrew J. Szokoly
- Gaster Lumber Company Award: Bradley S. Harrelson
- Knatt Award: Holly C. Price
- Sack Company Marketing Service Award: Victoria T. Brady
- Giacomo Family Memorial Scholarship in Marketing: Clayton D. Turner
- Georgia Retail Association Scholarship in Retailing: LeAnn Walls
- Top Student in Sales and Sales Management Award: Samantha Barlett
- Logistics & Intermodal Transportation Award: Kelly Hanada
- Jane White Memorial Scholarship: Erica K. Frederick
- Charette Scholarships: Travis Gilbert, Stephanie Johnson, Chelsea Smith, Kristen Cole, Jennifer Hammonds, Lauren Thornhill, and Ericka Frederick
- Savannah Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management: Katherine Bonner
- University Tire Award: Timothy M. Coleman
- Georgia Society of CPAs: Jonathan Branch, Cole Branhman, Lesley Culbreth, Jennifer Gay, Lee Glosson, Whitney Howard, Chris Jenkins, Miranda Johnson, Erik Kreamschuster, Durin Lane, Christina Larson, Madison Lee, Callan Lord, Kyle Manning, Brian Prevatt, Kashif Royal, Celeste Thompson, Travis Williams, and Krista Wood
- Institute of Management Accountants: Farah Punjani
- Paul LaGrone: Kathy Brown and Chase Hodges
- International Graduate Student Award: Clisha Cleveland
- Becker CPA Review: Marika Jones
- Time Warner, Inc.: Priddy-Price
- Robert F. Morris: Mason Harper
- Evelyn Spain-Coe: Virginia S. Clark
- Robert T. Cox: Jonathan Branch
- CSX Transportation: Christina Smith and Xavier Pitts
- Mark Anderson: Phillip Buechlerman
- Delta Sigma Pi: Rebecca S. Gell, Robert A. Smith, and Justin S. Hain

*Corporate Leadership Scholars will be featured in Spring 2009.

If you would like to support COBA’s scholarship programs, please contact Dean Ron Shiffler, Georgia Southern University, College of Business Administration, P. O. Box 8002, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002, phone (912) 478-COBA, Fax (912) 478-2626.
The Becker CPA Review

The Master of Accounting (MAcc) program at Georgia Southern focuses on the knowledge and skills needed for a career in public accounting. Since inception, the program has satisfied Georgia’s 150 semester-hour education requirement for a CPA. Yet, until 2008, few Georgia Southern students completed the CPA examination prior to graduation. The CPA exam is made up of four one-half day exams covering financial accounting, regulation, auditing, and business concepts.

In 2008, the School of Accountancy began offering the Becker CPA review, and the CPA exam pass rate for MAcc students jumped dramatically. Twenty-four students, faculty, and local practicing accountants enrolled in the Becker CPA review at Georgia Southern this fall. The results were outstanding. Georgia Southern’s Becker CPA review students passed 67 percent of the exams they took, a significant improvement over past experiences when Georgia Southern students had pass rates in the 20 to 25 percent range, and passing the entire CPA exam prior to graduation was extremely rare.

Georgia Southern students now have the option of taking the Becker CPA review for three semester hours of elective credit in the MAcc program. Students taking the review for credit must pass a rigorous in class exam after each portion of the CPA review.

MAcc graduates receive competitive job offers in public accounting, industry, government, and not-for-profit organizations. Accounting faculty are committed to student success, taking an active role in helping students identify and locate the right career option.

CIT Advisory Board Meets

On Friday evening, an informal reception was held, and the board enjoyed refreshments, finger foods, and an opportunity to network with faculty members from each department on current business practices and trends. The primary topics of discussion centered on keeping CIT program curricula current to best prepare Georgia Southern students for employment and stimulating demand for CIT graduates. It was an enjoyable interlude between work sessions.

The College of Information Technology extends thanks to the Advisory Board members for their service, concluding, “Your support is critical to our future success and continuously keeping CIT on the cutting edge.”

New IS Minor

Information technology (IT) is woven into the fabric of today’s businesses and is a driver of most business innovations. Organizations need business professionals who “get” IT and the newly minted information systems (IS) minor has the potential to help COBA graduates stand out in the job market.

The IS minor has been tailored to appeal to business majors but can be completed by students in any major at the university. Like other business minors, it requires students to complete survey of accounting, financial accounting, and managerial accounting. It also includes management information systems and three junior, senior, and graduate-level computer information systems courses. Prerequisites have been changed for multiple upper-level courses, including systems analysis & design, data communications, and project management, to make them more accessible to students pursuing the minor.

Students are able to complete the minor without taking a programming course. The minor also has been structured to enable students to complete three SAP-approved courses and earn an SAP Certificate. This certificate can expand student career options and help graduates catch the attention of SAP user organizations.

In a nutshell, the IS minor can improve the marketability of students by preparing them to:

• identify, select, and evaluate technology solutions for business problems,
• be a knowledgeable user of IT, and
• be that person in the business unit who can successfully interact and work with technology professionals.

The IS minor can strengthen the resume of any COBA major and it may be an especially valuable resume-builder for accounting and logistics majors. More information about the minor and the SAP Certificate are available on the Information Systems Department’s webpage http://cit.georgiasouthern.edu/iw/. See related story on page 3.

Verdict: Taking a Real World Approach

Students in Dr. Buckhoff’s expert witness class argued before Bulloch County State Court Judge Gary Mikell presiding over a mock proceeding of plaintiff accountants, “according to allegations. The primary due to the lax oversight of the mining site. After the $4 billion in Brodnax, professional standards in public accounting, including systems analysis & design, data communications, and project management, to make them more accessible to students pursuing the minor.

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WebMBA® Offers Opportunity

The Georgia WebMBA® offers opportunity to students from all walks of life; from Fortune 500 giants to the self-employed; from Delta pilots to Georgia Power engineers; from Savannah Memorial Medical physicians to The Home Depot middle managers. In many cases, students receive tuition reimbursement from their employers because they value enhanced skills and knowledge an employee gains from the WebMBA®.

4. Most students graduate from the Georgia WebMBA® program.

The typical Georgia Southern Georgia WebMBA® student is 29 years old, with 10 years of work experience, a 3.36 undergraduate grade point average, and a 500 plus Graduate Management Admission Test score. Georgia WebMBA® students are experienced, capable, and achievement-oriented. Classes feature team-based projects and individual initiative, an exceptionally high level of esprit de corps, and an overall retention rate of approximately 88 percent.

5. The Georgia WebMBA® is high quality.

Georgia Southern is a member of the MBA Roundtable, which represents graduate business programs sharing curriculum, research, publications, ideas, information, and resources for program content and delivery. Courses are state of the art and taught by the best PhD-level faculty, published in their respective fields, and highly experienced in teaching, applied practice, and online learning.

6. The Georgia WebMBA® is ideally suited for the busy professional.

Today’s professionals cannot commit to a fixed schedule of classes. The typical student is busy with job, family, and life. The WebMBA® fits students’ need for flexibility. Many students travel, some live in remote areas where no MBA programs are available, and others enroll from around the U.S. and the world.

If interested, please call 912-478-5483 or email aleveret@georgiasouthern.edu or visit www.webmbaonline.org.

MBA in the Spotlight

Tero Kyckling received a BA from Murray State University, then an MBA from Georgia Southern University in 1993. Tero, senior partner manager with Nokia Corporation in Finland, recently visited COBA friends in Statesboro on a trip to Florida for vacation. Lewis Stewart taught Tero when he was at Southern and hosted a meet and greet with faculty and students in his honor. Kyckling reminisced fondly about his days as a Georgia Southern student noting, “Georgia Southern will be a part of me for the rest of my life. I check the football stats every Monday morning and read the ‘Dean’s Update’ every Friday. I had a wonderful experience during my time at Georgia Southern.”

Speaking of the MBA program, Tero continued, “The Georgia Southern MBA program provided the tools I needed to succeed. The business courses and case studies gave me a solid foundation on which to begin my corporate business career in Finland.” Dean Shiffler concluded, “It is always an honor to welcome back one of our distinguished MBA alumni.”

MBA in the City

The College of Business Administration held its second MBA in the City information session at Blowing’ Smoke Restaurant in Savannah on October 2, 2008. The information session was held for anyone interested in taking MBA classes in Savannah. Faculty, current MBA students, and alumni were on hand to answer questions and make the session fun and informative event. Tim Cairney, interim director of COBA Graduate Studies, and Dean Ron Shiffler showed how our MBA program is uniquely relevant to the needs of business leaders in the 21st century. If you are interested in learning more about the MBA in the City program, please go to www.mbaninthecity.com.
Jordan Dukes

Jordan Dukes (Information Systems 1999) began his career as a network engineer for The Home Depot at its corporate headquarters in Atlanta. He was involved in several projects including WAN connectivity, re-addressing, and documenting server and bandwidth utilization for Home Depot eCommerce. As a senior network engineer working with AT&T and British Telecom in 2000, he worked in concert with sales teams to design and implement custom solutions for data customers, becoming a senior sales engineer for BT Global Services that year. With primary responsibilities for customer presentations, request for proposal and bid preparation, and technical bid qualification, Jordan was responsible for growing, maintaining, and protecting customer revenue. He consistently exceeded quarterly sales objectives with technical responsibilities for transformational bids including single source vendor aggregation and outsourcing.

Later, Jordan accepted a sales engineer position with World Wide Pacotes where he was responsible for all accounts in the Southeast U.S. as well as several national wireline service accounts. Earlier this year, Google acquired World Wide Pacotes and, since Jordan has served as a senior sales engineer and carrier ethernet subject matter expert (SSE-CESME) the only one in Pental and one of few in Georgia, Nebraska, or even Hong Kong.

Kim Brannen

Kim Brannen (Finance 1994) of Sea Island Bank, Statesboro, was recently installed as president of Leadership GBA, sponsored by the Georgia Bankers Association, at the association’s 48th annual leadership conference in Ponce de Leon Beach, FL. Leadership GBA is comprised of young, emerging banking leaders throughout the state.

Kim is vice president and manager of Sea Island Bank’s Private Client Group. She joined Sea Island Bank as a commercial lender in 1997. Through her association with Synovus Securities, Inc., she holds a Series 7 License (General Securities Representative), a Series 66 License (Investment Adviser and Uniform Securities Representative) and a Georgia license to sell annuities, life and health insurance. As manager of the Private Client Group, Kim is involved with a team of private bankers, mortgage specialists, trust professionals, securities financial consultants, and financial planners at headquartered in Sea Island Bank’s Professional Center in Statesboro’s Market District.

Kim is a board member for CSRA Business Lending, Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce, and Leadership Bulloch. She has held leadership positions on Joseph’s Home for Boys executive committee, the Bulloch County Board of Education School Council, and Youth Leadership Bulloch. Kim has been recognized by awards from the Georgia Bankers Association President’s Circle and Chamber of Commerce President’s Award.

Steve Benson

Steve Benson (Finance 1987), a tennis player at Georgia Southern, began a 19-year career in employee benefits with Scotia McLeod in his native Toronto, Canada, after graduation. He later joined North American Life, acquired by Manulife Financial, and subsequently Money & Money as Group Benefits Consultant before starting his own firm, Benson Benefits Consulting in 2004. Having the independence of running his own practice afforded Steve the opportunity to get involved in his first passion, tennis, as a Certified Tennis Canada and freelance instructor in Harris and the City of Harris Park and Recreation program. Another passion, the Harris-Huron Rotary Club, has afforded the past director and public relations director additional opportunity for community involvement.

Recently, Steve has merged Benson Benefits Consulting with Penmore Benefits, Inc., the employee benefits division of Penmore Financial Group, a full-service, comprehensive financial security planning firm, specializing in estate, corporate, and wealth planning firm based in Concord, Ontario. "I am most proud of the fact that I have established a very strong reputation in the employee benefits field with the highest of ethical standards, been married for over 17 years to an incredible woman, and been blessed with two amazing children—a son (15) and a daughter (12)."

Brandon Gillis

Brandon Gillis’s Information Systems 2000) first job following graduation was webmaster and corporate intern manager for Savannah-based H.O. Systems. In January 2001, he joined IBM as a service delivery manager for end-to-end delivery of strategic outsourcing accounts. Brandon was also responsible for managing customer expectations and contract deliverables. He branched out with his own business as a sole proprietor in Gillis Construction, LLC, in 2004 and then, in April 2007, left IBM to serve as director of operations for Computelogic, an Internet company that, since 1999, has become one of the collision repair industry’s most respected software development companies. His responsibilities include managing the execution and delivery of all products and service sold to customers and carry out project management duties as needed for new and existing customer accounts.
November 20 was Entrepreneurship Day for Georgia Southern's Colleges of Business Administration and Information Technology. Two events highlighted Dr. Luke Pittaway's and the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership's focus on entrepreneurial opportunities for students and faculty.

First, entrepreneurship students in Dr. Pittaway's classes exhibited their business concept projects in the atrium of the Information Technology building. A Venture Concept Exhibition, first of many to come, offered student teams an opportunity to identify a unique business concept, assess the potential market, and develop a presentation to test the public acceptance and viability of their ideas. The presentations were fascinating, ranging from manufacturing to service in a wide spectrum of industries. The idea was to develop market input and feedback before full business plan development.

The highlight of the day was a seminar, World-Class Entrepreneurship as Experience, both held at the Nessmith-Lane Performing Arts Center. The presentation focused upon entrepreneurship as a philosophy, or choice of emphasis, in decision-making. The research seminar highlighted the experiential nature of entrepreneurship that results in entrepreneurs being shaped by the venture as much as the entrepreneur shapes and governs the venture.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Morris, holds the Witting Chair in Entrepreneurship at Syracuse University and serves as chair of the Department of Entrepreneurship & Emerging Enterprises,a program identified as the National Model Program in Entrepreneurship by the U.S. Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

CPAs who have earned the CFF Credential must be recertified every three years to maintain their credential. The AICPA (www.aicpa.org) is the national, professional association of CPAs, with more than 350,000 members, including CPAs in business and industry, public practice, government, and education. It sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing standards for audits of private companies; federal, state, and local governments; and non-profit organizations. It also develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination. Headquartered in New York, the AICPA also maintains offices in Washington, DC; Durham, NC; and Lewistown, WI.

The Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership

Dr. Morris holds a PhD in marketing from Virginia Tech, an MS in economics, an MBA, and has been a principal in three entrepreneurial start-ups. He has published four books, authored hundreds research articles, and has been honored as Pi Sigma Epsilon's National Faculty Advisor of the Year, NCEC's 21st Century Entrepreneurship Research Fellow, Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year, and received the prestigious Appel Prize for contributions to the field of entrepreneurship. Dr. Morris, a former Fulbright Scholar to South Africa, was recognized as the Outstanding MBA Professor at Syracuse and received the Oberwager Prize for impacting students beyond the classroom.

As part of the Center’s mission and in conjunction with Dr. Morgan Miles’s entrepreneurial research, Dr. Nicole Coviello, research fellow at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, presented a seminar, Publishing Across Disciplines: A Long and Winding Road, to research professors from across entrepreneurship disciplines, reflecting upon the success, risk, and investigative opportunity of multi-disciplinary inquiry. Dr. Coviello received her PhD in marketing and international business from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, has published widely, and serves on numerous editorial boards, having recently received the 2008 Best Reviewer award from the Journal of International Business Studies.

MAcc Tax Research in Tampa

Cheryl Metrejean, assistant professor, accompanied her MAcc tax research class students Matt Sellers, Sam Evans, Brian Prevatt, Jenna Lay, and Julia Collins to Tampa, FL, to attend the U.S. Tax Court in November.

In their first session, an innocent spouse case presented a great example of “facts and circumstances” for students. Tears of an emotional witness and evidence excluded because the IRS failed to provide taxpayer notice heightened the drama for a case students saw on their final exams.

In the next session, tax protestors Improta and Sweeney appeared before the court claiming the U.S. has no valid taxing authority or statute. Students were amazed to learn taxpayers actually go to court making such arguments and thinking they will win.

Judge Jim Williams and the Tom’s Harbor Team

The highlight of the day was a seminar, World-Class Entrepreneurship as Experience, both held at the Nesssmith-Lane Performing Arts Center. The pre-
The newest members of the COBA family are presented below. Each person emerged as the top candidate in the search processes, and we are excited about the talents and skills they bring to COBA. Please join us in welcoming them to the team. We presently have a total of four faculty searches for the 2009-2010 year: a department chair search and an international management faculty search in the Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics; director of the School of Economic Development search; and an MBA director and a non-tenure track faculty search in the Office of Graduate Studies. We are excited about the prospects of adding additional new faculty in our corps of instruction.

**Sahar Bahmani**  
**School of Economic Development**

Sahar Bahmani, visiting professor, brings six years of teaching and her research in macroeconomics, monetary economics, and economic development to Georgia Southern. Her hobbies include playing piano and tennis as well as working out and spending time with her family and husband, who is a professor in the political science department at Georgia Southern.

**Joon-Kun Cho**  
**Department of Management, Marketing & Logistics**

Jay Cho, assistant professor of logistics, earned his PhD and MBA from the University of Arkansas, MS from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and BA from the Korea Military Academy in Seoul, Korea. Previously, Dr. Cho served in the Korean and U.S. Army as a professional officer more than 20 years before joining academia. Dr. Cho’s primary research interests are in the area of global supply chain management, third party logistics and outsourcing, performance measurement scale development, and e-based logistics. His daughter, Yoon-Na, is a doctoral student in management, third party logistics and outsourcing, performance measurement scale development, and e-based logistics. His daughter, Yoon-Na, is a doctoral student in the area of global supply chain development. His work has been published extensively. He is currently serving on the editorial boards of the International Small Business Journal, International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research, and International Journal of Entrepreneurship Education. He and his wife, Liz, reside in Statesboro.

**Janet Moss**  
**Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis**

Janet Moss, lecturer, earned an MBA from Georgia State University and a BA in management and psychology from the University of South Florida. Mrs. Moss has been an instructor in the College of Business since 2000. She taught business statistics and human resource management at Delta State University and has more than 10 years of private industry experience in the human resources field and more than 10 years of teaching experience at the college level. Mrs. Moss and her husband, Steve, live in Statesboro with their two children.

**William I. Norton, Jr.**  
**Department of Management, Marketing & Logistics**

Bill Norton, associate professor of management, earned a PhD from the University of South Carolina. His teaching and research interests are strategy, entrepreneurship, leadership, and ethics. Dr. Norton taught at Indiana University Southeast and at the University of Louisville before joining the COBA faculty. A former infantry officer and CPA, he makes his home in Statesboro with his wife, Elaine, and their daughter, Macy.

**Luke Pittaway**  
**William A Freeman Distinguished Chair in Free Enterprise**

Luke Pittaway is the William A. Freeman Distinguished Chair in Free Enterprise. He earned his PhD from the University of Newcastle and BA from the University of Huddersfield in Great Britain. Dr. Pittaway previously served the University of Sheffield as director of enterprise education, Centre for Regional Economic and Enterprise Development and director of research, Centre of Excellence in the Teaching and Learning of Enterprise; the National Council of Graduate Entrepreneurship as a research and education fellow; and the Advanced Institute of Management Research as a scholar. Dr. Pittaway’s research focuses on entrepreneurship education, behavior, and learning and has been published extensively. He is currently serving on the editorial boards of the International Small Business Journal, International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research, and International Journal of Entrepreneurship Education. He and his wife, Liz, reside in Statesboro.

**Jordan Shropshire**  
**Department of Information Systems**

Jordan Shropshire, assistant professor, recently completed his dissertation on information security at Mississippi State University. He received his undergraduate degree in business at the University of Florida. Dr. Jordan’s research interests include behavioral and technical aspects of information security, IT disaster recovery, technology diffusion, and measurement issues. His work has been published in several journals and conference proceedings. He has served as an associate editor and reviewer for leading journals, including MIS Quarterly, European Journal of Information Systems, Information & Organization, and Journal of Information Systems Security. In his spare time, Jordan enjoys outdoor activities such as duck hunting, camping, and fishing. He and his wife, Ali, hail from Tallahassee, Florida.

**Yuan Wen**  
**Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis**

Yuan Wen successfully defended her dissertation in March 2008 and received her PhD in finance at Temple University. Her research is focused on issues of corporate governance, executive compensation and ownership structure. Dr. Wen’s teaching experience is in corporate finance and financial institutions. She has worked in the areas of corporate board structure. Dr. Wen is a member of the Financial Management Association.

**Michael Wiggins**  
**School of Accountancy**

Michael Wiggins, assistant professor, received a BA in fine arts from Wichita State, a PMBA from the University of Massachusetts, and a JD from University of Arizona. He has more than ten years practical experience in corporate law, litigation, employment law, and business ethics. Dr. Wiggins has taught business law at the university level, developed on-line courses, and is Blackboard certified. His research interests include on-line education administration and the interaction between law and business.
The number of internships for students in the College of Business Administration averages more than 150 annually. These come from a variety of companies including the Alltel, American Ports Services, Briggs & Stratton, Center Homes, Chateau Elan Hotels & Resorts, D. J. Powers, Inc., Dairy Queen, Denmark & Brown, DNSF, Don Foods, East Georgia Regional Center, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Expeditors International, Florida State University, Frances B. Dantzler, CPA, Future Trees, Inc., Georgia Ports Authority, Georgia Southern University, Habitat for Humanity, Hancock Askew & Co., International Center for Leadership & Coaching, Interstate Transport, JIT Warehousing, Kimberly-Clark Corp., Lanier Worldwide, Inc., Liberty Tax & Accounting Service, Mass Media Marketing, Memorial Hospital, Mermaid Cottages, Merrill Lynch, Moe’s Southwest Grill, Mountvine Mills, Inc., NeSmith Chevrolet, New York Stock Exchange, Ogeechee Technical College, Park Avenue Bank, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Regis, Sea Island Bank, Serenity Day Spa & Salon, Southern Boosters, Spirit and Truth Worship Center, Starlight Children’s Foundation, Taco Bell, Target Stores, The Herff Jones Company, ULine, and Viraco.

The College of Business Administration has 98 full-time faculty members, 11 administrative and part-time faculty, and 18,108 alumni; the College of Information Technology has 25 full-time faculty members, 14 administrative and part-time faculty, and 379 alumni.

### FALL 2008 ENROLLMENT

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<th>CIT Pre-Technology</th>
<th>Majors</th>
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<td>WebMBA</td>
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<td><strong>Total COBA and CIT Students</strong></td>
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### 2007-08 GRADUATES

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>753</strong></td>
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1Represents 25.3% of total degrees conferred in 2008.

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Accounting Association
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
- Association for Computing Machinery
- Association of Information Technology Professionals
- American Marketing Association
- Beta Alpha Psi Accounting Association
- Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society
- Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity
- Economics Club
- Finance Club
- Georgia Retail Association
- Logistics Association
- Graduate Student Organization
- Students in Free Enterprise
- National Association of Black Accountants
- Society for Human Resource Management

### Mark your calendar for the 16th Annual COBA Golf Tournament

**Friday, May 15, 2009**

**Forest Heights Country Club**

**Morning**
Registration: 7:30 – 8:00 A.M.
Shotgun Start: 8:00 A.M.

**Afternoon**
Registration: 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.
Shotgun Start: 1:00 P.M.

Mulligans $5.00 each (limit 4 per player)

For pre-registration, contact Lisa Williams (lwms@georgiasouthern.edu).
The Eagle Executive Society is focused upon building communication between COBA and its alumni. Alumni and friends who invest $50 in the Eagle Executive Society support subscriptions to the COBA e-newsletter, receptions, seminars, and programs. The Eagle Executive Society supports activities beyond the classroom by funding student competitions, travel, scholarships, assistantships, research, and scholarly endeavors. You may become a Charter Member before year-end 2008 at https://touchpay.georgiasouthern.edu/eagleexecutive/. Current charter members are listed below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Charter Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Frances S. Deal</td>
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<td>Julian I. Deal</td>
<td>Josh Matthew Lane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trey Denton, III</td>
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Faces of Homecoming 2008

W. L. “Bill” Thomas (1988 MGT), Big Bad Wolf Barbeque, catered a barbecue luncheon for the homecoming cookout held under the water tower in the parking lot of Paulson Stadium. Special thanks are extended to COBA’s Homecoming Committee, Jerry Wilson, professor of logistics and marketing; Jan Grimes, instructor of management; Linda Mullen, assistant professor of management; Susan Williams, associate dean; and Lisa Williams, administrative specialist, for their help with this event. Later that day, Georgia Southern’s Eagles suffered a heartbreaking loss to Samford’s Bulldogs. The final score was 27-17.
Laura Decker Macrenaris (Accounting 2003; cum laude) works just outside of Atlanta as a corporate accountant for the billion dollar concrete company, Oldcastle Precast, a subsidiary of the Irish company CRH, account manager for the billion dollar concrete company, Oldcastle Precast, a subsidiary of the Irish company CRH.

Jill Freeman Forehand (1999), formerly in Nashville, TN, is now in Cumming, where she is the senior director of donor relations for Georgia Southern. She is married to Jason Forehand. Email: jforehand@georgiasouthern.edu.

Walter “Nick” Prapps (1998), formerly in Bethesda, MD, is now in Statesboro, where he is an associate broker with Manack Signature Properties. Email: njpr@nickprapps.com.

Teresa McCuffie (2006), is now in Loganville, where she is the director of Razzles Daycare Center. She is married to Donald Boss.

Walter “Nick” Prapps (1998), formerly in Bethesda, MD, is now in Statesboro, where he is an associate broker with Manack Signature Properties. Email: njpr@nickprapps.com.

Teresa McCuffie (2006), is now in Loganville, where she is the director of Razzles Daycare Center. She is married to Donald Boss.

While at Georgia Southern, Laura was a Diamond Girl for the baseball team and attended the University of Innsbruck, Austria, as part of the Study Abroad Program. She was able to travel throughout Italy, Switzerland, and Germany on the weekends during the program. Laura states her experience in the Study Abroad Program “was the best of my life, one I will treasure forever, and I owe it all to a flyer I saw on campus one day.”

Laura married Jason Macrenaris on April 19, 2008. After a honeymoon in St. Lucia, the couple purchased a home in Stone Mountain.
**ALUMNIVILLE**

Donnie Robinson (2005), Winston, is a financial planning specialist with Atlanta Financial Associates, Atlanta. He is working on an MBA at Georgia State. Email: donnierobrasco32@yahoo.com.

Lauren Dean McCraw (2005), Savannah, is the aclt. manager for Synergy Designer Homes. Email: laurenmc@gmail.com.

Brandy Luttrell (2005), Albany, is a claims adjuster with Progressive Insurance. She is engaged to Kyle Kimmer, a 2003 Georgia Southern graduate. Email: brandy_e_luttrell@progressive.com.

Justin Elam (2005), formerly in Hinesville, is now in Carrollton, where he is the branch manager for American General Finance.

Robert Lee Brown, Jr. (2006), formerly in Kennesaw, is now in Lawrenceville, where he is a claims adjuster, for Liberty Mutual Insurance, Norcross. He is married to Tara Elizabeth Franklin, a 2007 Georgia Southern nursing graduate. Email: robertt.brown@libertymutual.com.

Sean T. Frost (2006), Canton, is a collector/AR specialist with Honda Financial Services. Email: frost24@hotmail.com.

Travis Turner (2006), Lawrenceville, is an account manager with Coyote Logistics, Alpharetta. Email: travisturner4@charter.net.

Lauret A. Atsegbeu (2007), Lawrenceville, is currently an account executive with Schneider National, Atlanta. Email: atsegbeu@yahoo.com.

Ryan B. Weigel (2007), is the internal finance auditor for AGL Resources, Atlanta. Email: rweigel@aglresources.com.

Morrell A. McCaskill (2007), formerly in the “Boro,” is now in Pooler, where he is a financial specialist for Wachovia Bank, Norcross. He is married to Tara Elizabeth Franklin, a 2007 Georgia Southern nursing graduate. Email: mmmcaskill@georgia.southern.edu.

**General Business**

Charles R. Wirt (1971), Miami, FL, is a pilot and an aviation insurance agent with the Southeast Insurance Center, Miami. Email: phlyrer48@aol.com.

**Information Systems**

Darren W. Bridges (1986), Atlanta, is now the president of Safe Systems, Inc., Alpharetta. His wife is Selena. Email: darren.bridges@safesystems.com.

Ryan B. Brennan (2000), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Roswell, where he is the regional sales manager for Foundry Networks. He is married to Heather Bowers. Email: rbrennan@foundrynet.com.

Matt Selph (2002), Dublin, is the MIS coordinator for Fred’s Southeast Distribution Center. He is married to Kristen Davis.

Joshua B. Morris (2005), Alpharetta, is a systems engineer with Safe Systems, Inc. Email: gsbass@gmail.com.

Jocelyn Carrie Smith (2005), Richmond Hill, recently married Chaz Brett Eure, a 2007 Georgia Southern public relations graduate.

Ryan Richardson (2006), Statesboro, has been named technology director and bank security officer for The Claxton Bank. He is also the owner/founder of Xtreme Computing. His wife is Brenda, and they have a son, Parker.

**Logistics**

Patrick M. O’Connell (1999), Tulsa, OK, is the director of distribution operations for Hilti, Inc., Broken Arrow, OK. He was on our swim team. Email: poconnell1659@gmail.com.

Matthew S. Laverne (2000), Lithia Springs, is the risk manager/safety director for the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Douglasville. Email: mlaverne@gmail.com.

Jonathan LeFevres (2003), formerly in America, and now in Americus, is a director of commercial relations for the Heart of Georgia and Georgia Midland Railroad. His wife is Heather.

Travis Betz (2004), Pooler, is an aviation officer with the U.S. Army. He is married to Katrina Dekle. Email: travisbetz@bellsouth.net.

Matthew Charles Brown (2004), Conyers, the southeast territory manager for Aquatic Sales, recently married Leah Rebecca Wynn, a Georgia Southern marketing graduate.

Esther J. Harvey (2004), Statesboro, a Lt. in the Georgia Army National Guard, recently returned from her first deployment to Iraq. Her next assignment will take her to the Republic of Georgia for three weeks of training with the country’s army. Email: esther.harvey@yahoo.com.

Eric Allen Schregel (2004), formerly in Brooklet, is now in Atlanta, where he is a rental acct. manager for Ryder Transportation. He is engaged to Jennifer L. Denemark, a 2004 Georgia Southern accounting graduate.

Dane Aeensen (2006; Delta Sig), Roswell, is the logistics administrator for the Golden Peanut Company, Alpharetta. Email: daaensen@gmail.com.

Justine Willbanks (2007), formerly in Cartersville, is now in Gray. An employee of the Saddle Creek Corp., Macon, he recently

**Management**

Kathy A. Daniel (1980), West Africa, is a missionary for the International Missions Board. Email: lovetruth@usa.net.

Jennifer Bes Thoms (1995), Savannah, is now an HR business consultant for Memorial Health. She is married to Thomas Woelber, a 1996 Georgia Southern accounting graduate.

Amy Fox Balzarano (1998), Stamford, CT, is the HR manager for Alea North America, Rocky Hill, CT. She is married to Marc Balzarano. Email: amy.balzarano@alea.com.

Amy Haggans (2000), Metter, currently employed with AirTran Airways, recently married Brent Robertson Terrell.

Christopher D. Morgan (2000), Pooler, is the operations manager for Staples, Savannah. He is married to Mariana Webb.

Heather Althe (2001), Pooler, is now an assistant manager for human resources for the Georgia Ports Authority, Garden City. She recently became a foster parent for two children. Email: hathi@gpports.com.

Matt Henderson (2001), Woodstock, is employed by Pediatric services of America and completing a masters in accounting. He is married to Nancy Settle.

Scott M. Bogen (2003), Ft. Myers, FL, is the sales and marketing account manager for the Florida Everglades hockey team. Email: sbogen2003@yahoo.com.

DeWayne Grice (2003), Statesboro, recently portrayed Bill Perry in the Avertit Center for the Arts production of “The Living Legacy of Erk Russell: A Life Done Right.” DeWayne is married to Lori, an award winning photographer and Georgia Southern marketing alumna.

M. Wayne Murphy (2004), Pooler, has been promoted to assistant golf professional for the Club of Savannah Harbor. Email: wayne.murphy@westin.com.

Sarah T. Chester (2004), Statesboro, has been promoted to assistant banking officer/deposit specialist with First Southern National Bank. She is married to Justin Chester.

Dana L. Beneman (2005), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Odessa, TX, where she is a Caseworker II with the Department of Family & Protective Services. Dana was on the Lady Eagles Basketball Team for four years. Email: divabd2@hotmail.com.

Bradley C. Bonner (2006), Statesboro, is a professional poker player online. He is married to April Lane, a current COE student, and they have a daughter. Cadence (3). Email: goavigus85@yahoo.com.

Logan E. Lainier (2006), Cobbtown, is the manager/owner of Reidsville Electric and Ace Hardware, Reidsville. He is married to Heather Jones, a 2005 Georgia Southern psychology graduate. Email: lainerl11@hotmail.com.

Clay M. Elrod (2006), McDonough, is a trainmaster for Norfolk Southern, Garden. He manages railroad operations in Middle Georgia for Norfolk Southern. Email: clay.elrod@nscorp.com.

Kelly Kahley (Finance 1990) was recently promoted to head of the Mortgage Division and director of business development at First Southern National Bank.

In her new capacity, she will coordinating First Southern’s mortgage lending departments at the main, Market District and Effingham offices. She will be responsible for training, recruiting, hiring, overseeing and implementing the strategic plan for mortgage lending. In addition, she will coordinate and manage business development and sales efforts for the bank.

Kelly joined the First Southern team in August of 2006, bringing with her over 18 years in mortgage lending and banking industry experience. She recently received recognition as the “Best Mortgage Lender in the “Boro” by readers of the Statesboro Herald. Kelly Kahley is also very active in the community, serving as the 2008 Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce special events chair and as a board member of Homebuilders of Statesboro. She is currently a member of the Statesboro Board of Realtors, Statesboro Service League, Professional Women of Statesboro, and serves as treasurer for the Phil Mu Alumni chapter. Kelly and her husband, Kelly, reside in Statesboro with their two children, Cameron and Christina, and are members of First Baptist Church in Statesboro.

Congratulations Kelly Kahley!!
William M. West, II (2006), formerly in Whigham, is now in Macon, where he is the general manager of Auto Credit of Macon. Email: wmwest2@gulfstream.com.

Renard (R. J.) Monford (2007), Atlanta, is in outside sales with Fastenal, Decatur. R. J. was on the football team. Email: gadge@stores.fastenal.com.

Marketing

Tracy Carnes Alter (1990), Albuquerque, NM, is the director of education and PR for the New Mexico Health Care Association. She is married to Joel Alter, and they have two daughters, Jordan (15) and Hailey (10). Email: abttracy505@msn.com.

Paul S. Greenspan (1991), formerly in Marietta, is now in Bradenton, FL, where he is president and owner for Ready-to-Sell. His wife is Maur. Email: paulgreenspan@ready-to-sell.com.

Madeline Ann Chandler (1992), Ellijay, is an inkeeper at The Overlook Inn, Chattoovtah. Email: madelinechandler@hotmail.com.

Matt Fowler (1994), Suwanee, is the owner of Georgia Water and Fire Restoration. He is married to Tina Butler, a 1994 Georgia Southern finance graduate, and they have a daughter, Morgan. Email: tina@thefowlerconnection.com.

Marty Sauls, IV (1994), Ridgeland, SC, public relations director of Tradition Hilton Head, Hardeeville, SC, has been elected president of the Jasper County (SC) Chamber of Commerce.

Waymond F. Allen (1998; MBA 2002), Pooler, is now a manufacturing engineer with Gulfstream Aerospace, Savannah. He is married to Kimberly McClain, a 2000 Georgia Southern nutrition graduate. Email: waymond.allen@gulfstream.com.

Kyle A. Hensel (2002; MBA 2003), formerly in Statesboro, is now in McDonough, where he is the area director of the Clayton State Small Business Development Center. Email: kyhensel@clayton.edu.

Sharon Jones (2004), formerly in Norcross, is now in Statesboro, where she is the office manager for Fire Tech.

Brandie Ellison (2005), Atlanta, is a junior brand planner with Fitzgerald & Co. Email: brandieellison2003@yahoo.com.

Matthew B. Paige (2005; 2007 MBA), Statesboro, an employee of Wachovia Bank, Augusta, recently married Charlotte Rushing, a current Augusta State student.

Lindi Lee Ellwood (2005), Register, on 8th grade math teacher for the Burke County BOE, is engaged to Will C. Sullivan, IV, a 2005 ABAC graduate.

Jami A. DeMersman (2006), Decatur, is a branch manager with Wells Fargo. Email: jdemersm@gmail.com.

Rachel Gibbs (2006), formerly in Pooler, is now in Knoxville, TN, where she is an international freight logistics agent with C.H. Robinson Worldwide. She is married to Georgia’s Southern alumni Marshall Mason. Email: rachelgmason@gmail.com.


Staci Anderson (2006), Fort Mill, SC, is now a marketing analyst with Wachovia, Charlotte. Email: stacianderson22@aol.com.

Tara Prindle (2007), formerly in Marietta, is now in Atlanta, where she is the executive administrative assistant for Alpha Delta Pi. Email: tpindle@alphadeltapi.com.

Desmund L. Nicely (2007), Stone Mountain, is an online consultant with CareerBuilder.com, Norcross. Email: desmund.nicely@careerbuilder.com.

Takisha Brown (2007), formerly in McDonough, is now in Lithuania, where she is a regional financial rep with Sherwin Williams, Tucker. Email: kiki0285@hotmail.com.

MBA

William B. McLeod (1990), Ashburn, VA, is now the sales director for Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., Ashburn. Email: billymac60@gmail.com.

Rob Stockton (1997), Tiger, general manager of Duvall Ford Co., Clayton, was inducted into the Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame. He was on the football team from 1992–1995, First Team Academic All-American in 1995, and Second Team All Southern Conference as a defensive back. He is credited with 322 tackles, 7 interceptions, and 20 pass break-ups. His wife is Sherie.

Christian A. Jones (2000), Savannah, is the pharmacy manager for St. Joseph’s/Candler. He is married to Danie Palmer, and they are expecting their first child in August. Email: cjonespharmd@bellsouth.net.

Gina Taormina (2004), Statesboro, is CFO/COO for The Neurological Center of East Georgia. She is married to Dr. Michael Taormina.

Ryan S. Martin (2005), Pooler, is vice president of The Coastal Bank. He is married to Leigh Gladden. Email: rmartin85@comcast.net.

Kimberly Lund Mathis (2006), formerly in Cordova, TN, is now in Jacksonville, FL, where she is a senior accountant with the PGA Tours, Ponte Vedra, FL. She is married to Douglas Mathis. Email: kl1615@yahoo.com.

Sarah Stokes Meyer (2006), Brunswick, is the finance director for the Coastal Medical Access Project. She is married to Matthew Meyer. Email: smeyer@cmappe.org.

Ted W. Gibson, Sr. (2007), Pooler, is the senior procurement project manager with Gulfstream. His wife is Bertha. Email: twgibson014@yahoo.com.

Office Administration

Barbara Thompkins Gailey (1973), formerly in Conyers, is now in Hoschton, where she is retired. She is married to Tony Gailey, and the proud grandmother of four. Email: bgandtg@comcast.net.

In Memoriam

Bill Pallak (BS 1964), Hixson, TN, passed away on May 7, 2008.


Kevin C. Gordon (Mgt 1996), Riverdale, passed away on June 20, 2005.

Tony Petrea, Jr. (IS 2002), Tybee Island, passed away on April 6, 2008.

Nancy Jenkins Welch (1968), Highlands, NC, formerly of Statesboro, passed away on October 31, 2008.

(photograph courtesy of Statesboro Herald)
Homecoming Professor for a Day

Homecoming Professor for a Day has become a very popular program. Each year at homecoming participants share insight into their various areas of expertise, careers and experiences since their own college days.

Lisa L. Conti-Bacon, CPA, is an audit manager with Hancock Askew in Savannah. She holds a BBA with an emphasis in accounting from Georgia Southern and a BS in forest resources and conservation from the University of Florida. Lisa serves as president of the Savannah Chapter of Georgia Society of CPAs.

Ron A. Lundstrom, MBA, CPA/CFE, FCPA, CFE, is president of Lundstrom LLC, Atlanta, a forensic accounting and fraud investigation firm. He received a BBA in accounting in 1969 from Georgia Southern and an MBA, also in accounting, from Georgia State. Ron currently serves on the Forensic Accounting Advisory Board for the Center for Forensic Studies in Accounting and the Business and the Accounting Advisory Council for the School of Accountancy.

John W. Lucht, CPA, CPEC, serves as partner in charge of Accounting, Advisory and Assurance Services for Smith & Howard, Atlanta. John received his accounting degree from The University of Georgia. He is a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs and the American Institute of CPAs.

Alex Knight, CPA, is a partner in the Advisory and Business Services Group at A disfr, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP, which focuses primarily on tax planning for high net worth individuals, corporate executives, athletes, and entertainers. He earned both a BS in business administration with a concentration in accounting and a master of professional accounting with an emphasis on taxation from the University of Tennessee. Alex is on the Board of Directors of the British American Business Group and he serves as the organization’s president.

Greg L. Jenkins, II, is a senior accountant for the City of Greensboro, NC. He graduated from Georgia Southern with both a BBA in business finance in 2000 and an MBA in 2003. Greg serves on the Greensboro Municipal Credit Union Board and is treasurer for the Triad Chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administration.

Kim Hammock is a certified mortgage specialist and vice president in the Private Mortgage Division of Atlantic Bank & Trust, Charleston, SC. She graduated from Georgia Southern in May 2007 with a BBA in economics. While at Georgia Southern, Kim was president of the Economics Club and was a cheerleader.

Mike McCarthy, CPA, is an audit partner for Hancock Askew in Savannah. Mike’s experience includes managing the accounting and reporting for public equity and debt offerings, business combinations and dispositions, advising internal audit departments on developing test plans and strategies to enhance corporate governance, and SEC filing. Mike holds a BS in accounting from Auburn University.

Erica Cobb is the senior corporate Recruiting Director at TitleMax, headquartered in Savannah. She earned a BBA in marketing with an emphasis in sales from Georgia Southern in 2001. Erica serves on the Ad- visory Board for the Savannah Technical College and is an ambassador for the Savannah Chamber & Visitors Bureau.

School of Accountancy

Executive in Residence

Jonathan Kraftchick, CPA and manager of training and recruiting for Cherry, Bekart & Holland, CPAs in Raleigh, NC, spoke at the annual School of Accountancy (SOA) Executive in Residence program held in October 2008 at the Performing Arts Center, Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building at Georgia Southern.

In his training role, Kraftchick is responsible for implementing and evaluating the firm’s training and continuing education strategies through course development and teaching.

In his appearance as keynote speaker for the Executive in Residence program, he led a very informative, spirited, yet light hearted lecture to a packed auditorium of Georgia Southern students. Feedback from the students was excellent and many expressed regret it could not last longer than the hour and one-half session, which included questions and answers on financial literacy and how to manage credit. Since 2005, Mr. Kraftchick has led several financial literacy courses throughout North Carolina, mainly focusing on topics such as getting and staying out of debt, budgeting, couples’ finance, and wealth management. In 2006, he created a college student finance series to help graduating students to transition to the “real” world.

Mr. Kraftchick attended the University of Georgia initially majoring in theatre and religion before setting off to become an actor. Realizing that waiting tables and begging for tips was not the lifestyle he wanted, he transferred to University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where he received a BA in economics. He earned his master of accounting in 2002 and now spends a majority of his time conducting audits and consulting engagements for public and private companies throughout the southeast. He is editor of two newspapers published monthly and quarterly serves as adjunct professor of accounting at Elon University.

The School of Accountancy’s Executive in Residence program was established in 1996 to bring high profile, highly successful executives to campus to encourage accounting stu- dents and to share with them what it takes to have meaningful and rewarding careers. Each year, the SOA invites executives from different career paths to illustrate the vast array of opportunities that exists for accounting graduates. “This has become one of the students’ favorite programs,” said Chuck Harter, SOA director. “Students know they can do well in the accounting profession, but when they hear about the accomplishments of these executives and the stories of challenges, perseverance, and success, it really registers with them,” he added. “The students, faculty, and staff all seem to enjoy these E-I-R programs. They have become a highlight of the academic year in the College of Business Administration,” Harter concluded.

Future events are currently in the works to take place in Orlando, FL, Atlanta, and Hillsborough, NC.

Dinner with the Dean

The recent Dinner with the Dean series has evolved to help COBA make new friends and identify potential supporters for the College of Business Adminis- tration. The events usually takes place as in a small group setting, hosted by an individual or com- pany, administered by Linda Wilke and Jamie Lane from COBA’s external relations department, and keynoted by Dean Shiffer. Guests are invited in order to build relationships within the community and present the current needs of the College.

The first two Dinners with the Dean were held in Macon in June and September. The third Dinner with the Dean was held in Dublin in October. The fourth event this semester took place in Savannah and was hosted by Hancock Askew in October.